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# METROWEEN

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ILLUSTRATION BY BILLY BECERRA, METRO

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## WELCOME TO METROWEEN

**MORGAN ROUSSEAU, MANAGING EDITOR**

Halloween is creeping up on us. Sadly, this year it falls on a Tuesday, so the debauchery will likely unfold over the weekend. And you, dear readers, deserve a break from the chaos of the news cycle — and the drudgery of the work week. Let's look forward to scintillating spirits, crisp leaves, creepy costumes and of course, candy. Inside you'll read about the psychology behind our fears, local Halloween festivities, and whether you should be worried about razor blades in candy apples. Oh, and we have a new Halloween ice cream sandwich. Read on, if you dare, to prepare for the season's spookiest holiday.

WINNER

Toupee Trumpkin by Phet Lew

## MetroWeen Trumpkin contest

October is a time for tricks, treats and Trumpkins. We're happy to announce the winner of our MetroWeen Trumpkin contest is Phet Lew of Lorton, Virginia. Below you'll find our runners-up. It was a tough call, but in the end, Lew's choice of a wheat toupée "trumped" the others.

RUNNER-UP

Twilight Trumpkin by Stephanie Geyer

RUNNER-UP

Trick-or-Treat Trumpkin by Manuel Roman

RUNNER-UP

Toothy Trumpkin by Timothy Daily

RUNNER-UP

Toffee Trumpkin by Treva Bice Kilcoyne

# Spice up your Halloween decor with these pumpkin-carving ideas

Not your mama's jack-o'-lantern.

**ERIN TIERNAN**

Despite the blue skies and 80-degree days, it's actually fall, which means it's time to pull your scarves, leggings and boots out of storage and start transforming your home into Halloween wonderland or nightmare — the choice is yours.

The staple for any self-respecting Halloween decorator is, of course, the jack-o'-lantern. The carved pumpkin gives some leeway for creativity with a classic touch.

These days, pumpkin carving is somewhat of an art of its own, and Metro has found some of the spookiest, funniest and most clever designs to inspire you as you set out to carve your jack-o'-lantern this year. Check out the photos for inspiration.

Metro also has a few tips on how to pick the perfect pumpkin and how to keep it fresh once it's carved.

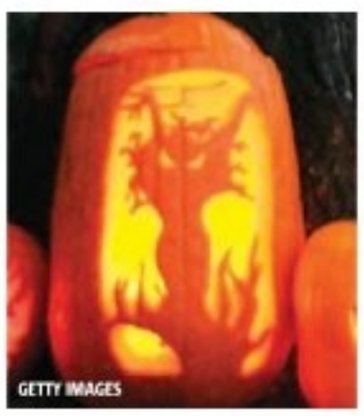
### How to pick the perfect Halloween pumpkin

The first thing to remember is all pumpkins aren't created equal, and while size matters, bigger isn't always better, according to homemaking blog The Spruce.

When hunting for the perfect squash for carving your jack-o'-lantern, you'll want to look for a nice shape (rounded, maybe slightly flat on one side) that will last for several days once carved.

Once you've made your choice, there are a few things to remember that will help you get it home in one piece:

**• Make sure your pumpkin is fully mature (it will appear firm on the outside).**



GETTY IMAGES

**• Never carry your pumpkin by the stem — stems snap off easily and will leave your pumpkin open to infection and rot, which will lead to a quick demise for your carved creation.**

**• Inspect your pumpkin for bruises or soft spots — this means your pumpkin is already past its prime and won't last you too long.**

### Keeping your pumpkin fresh for Halloween and beyond

Carved pumpkins on display during the Life Is Good Pumpkin Festival. GETTY IMAGES

Howl at the moon! FLICKR

### CARVING TIPS

- Keep the pumpkin in a cool spot, out of direct sunlight.
- Spray it with an anti-transpirant, like Wilt-Pruf.
- Drape the entire pumpkin with a damp towel.
- Protect it from animals that might be tempted to take a bite.
- Don't leave it outdoors if there's a threat of frost.

Nobody likes a dried-out, shriveled up jack-o'-lantern, so it's important to follow the steps listed above to stop it from decaying as soon as it's cut and exposed to air.

As with most things, the fresher the better, but if you need to carve your pumpkin a few days before displaying it, these tips will help it live a long, fulfilling life.

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Police shared this grim discovery after a recent Halloween, later found to be an elaborate hoax by an 11-year-old girl. PROVIDED

# Razors in Halloween candy: Fact or fiction?

No one is sure if the gruesome Halloween myth has ever really happened.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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sam.newhouse@metro.us

Did you hear about it? Years ago, in that one town, some psycho was handing out apples to kids on Halloween that had blades inside them. When they bit the apple, they were biting straight into a razor.

Or was it needles in Twix bars? Or poisoned Pixy Stix?

As a matter of fact, it was none of the above.

Despite panicking gullible parents for years and adding a macabre element to the holiday of fear, the stories of madmen handing out needles and razors in Halloween candy have yet to be proved true.

It's unclear where the stories originated and why they persist — whether it's in the collective unconscious or if the story keeps getting intentionally resurrected by parents trying to terrify their fat, sugar-addicted kids into laying off the candy.

Either way, read on for the history of this disturbing urban legend.

One child did die after consuming poisonous Pixy Stix on Halloween – but his own father is the one who gave it to him, believing the "random Halloween killer" theory would trick the cops.

Ronald Clark O'Bryan also gave cyanide-laced Pixy Stix to his daughter and a few other kids on Halloween 1974 in Deer Park, Texas, hoping that spreading the poison around would convince investigators a maniac was responsible.

But police quickly determined no Pixy Stix were given out at any of the homes where O'Bryan's 8-year-old son Timothy had trick-or-treated before dying from potassium cyanide poisoning around 10:30 p.m. Halloween night. Then they learned his father was more than $100,000 in debt and had just signed the boy up for a hefty life-insurance policy. By chance, none of the other kids who got them ever ate their poisoned Pixy Stix.

O'Bryan was dubbed "the candy man" by the media, and as he was executed by lethal injection in 1974, demonstrators outside the prison tossed candy in the air and shouted, "Trick or treat!" reports said.

For some reason, needles- and razor-in-candy stories encourage people to re-create them and act them out.

After Halloween 2013, police in the suburban Philadelphia town of Kennett Square reported that needles were found inside of Twix bars by four children. Police shared photos of the dangerous candy as the investigation began.

But shortly afterward, an 11-year-old girl admitted putting the needles, stolen from her mother's sewing kit, into the Twix bars after an adult showed her a picture of needles in a candy bar.

And just days later in South Jersey, a man brought more candy bars with needles to Gloucester Township police. They quickly determined he was a "copycat" of the Kennett Square incident perpetrated by the young girl, as he had posted that picture on his Facebook page and "had made up the story and had placed the needles in the candy bars," according to police statements at the time.

These stories and images seem to trigger a psychological impulse to "re-create" the scene.

Two other incidents feed the fire of the razors-in-candy myth.

In 1970, a 5-year-old from Detroit died after Halloween from a heroin overdose. But panic that candy with heroin was handed out was suppressed after it was revealed the boy accidentally consumed drugs from his uncle's stash.

The earliest reported incident, in 1959, does really involve a mad doctor giving out hundreds of unwitting trick-or-treaters a "trick" instead of "treat" in their candy. But no one died or suffered permanent damage.

That's because California dentist Dr. William Shine, who clearly had a weird sense of humor, didn't give out poison. For some reason, he just handed out roughly 450 laxatives. At least 30 children felt the effects, with one ending up in the hospital.

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# Big tobacco uses menthol, other flavors to lure African American smokers

WRITTEN BY
**Amy Smith**

Tobacco companies have shamelessly targeted minority youths for the better part of a century. One 1993 New York Times article recalls a now-famous instance when executives from the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company were asked if they themselves smoked. One exec reportedly replied with: "Are you kidding? We reserve that right for the poor, the young, the black and the stupid."

Almost a quarter of a century has passed since that article was published, but young African Americans still find themselves aggressively targeted by big tobacco companies. Wander into any Philadelphia corner store and you're likely to find candy-flavored tobacco products and menthol cigarettes conveniently sold alongside candy.

"Young people have access to all of it; even though you're not supposed to sell to minors, these products still get in the hands of our youth," says Mark Harrell, community organizer for the Southwest Community Development Corporation in Philadelphia. "That's how tobacco companies look at our young people, as replacement smokers for those who either quit or die."

When you look at the research, Harrell's assessment seems to ring true. Big tobacco companies have long been accused of predatory marketing tactics used to lure and retain young smokers. But while the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act banned these companies from flavoring cigarettes, other popular products—like cigarellos and moist snuff, for example— can still be flavored. What's more, menthol is still allowed in cigarettes.

In other words, tobacco companies are allowed to infuse a wide array of products with candy flavoring and fun, youthful packaging to attract young smokers. They can also add menthol flavoring to cigarettes; a flavor that study after study has found to be particularly dangerous. The minty flavor helps numb the throat and lungs, preventing the coughing and gagging beginning smokers usually experience. Since the menthol essentially makes them easier to smoke, it's little wonder that kids who start with menthol are twice as likely to become regular smokers.

This represents a major national public health concern, especially in Philadelphia. According to the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, tobacco kills over 3,600 city residents every year. That's more than overdoses, gun homicides, alcohol, and physical inactivity combined.

"We know the tobacco industry targets young people, and the research shows that they specifically target African Americans," adds Harrell.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention agrees; according to the CDC, the marketing and promotion of menthol cigarettes has historically zeroed in on the African American community. Today, almost 90 percent of African American smokers prefer menthol cigarettes.

Tobacco companies know that the majority of smokers take up the habit by the time they're 18. After that, it's less likely they'll start. In other words, the idea is to hook them while they're young.

So how do we stop the cycle?

"One thing people can do is express their views and concerns to the city council," says Harrell. "Councilmen Curtis Jones is currently proposing hearings to address the issue of candy-flavored tobacco and menthol cigarettes."

The ultimate goal would be for city council to consider legislation that would regulate the sales of flavored and

mentholated tobacco products. This is the best defense to protect our youth from predatory marketing at the hands of big tobacco companies.

As Harrell says: "It's about keeping our kids safe and putting a stop to this huge public health crisis."

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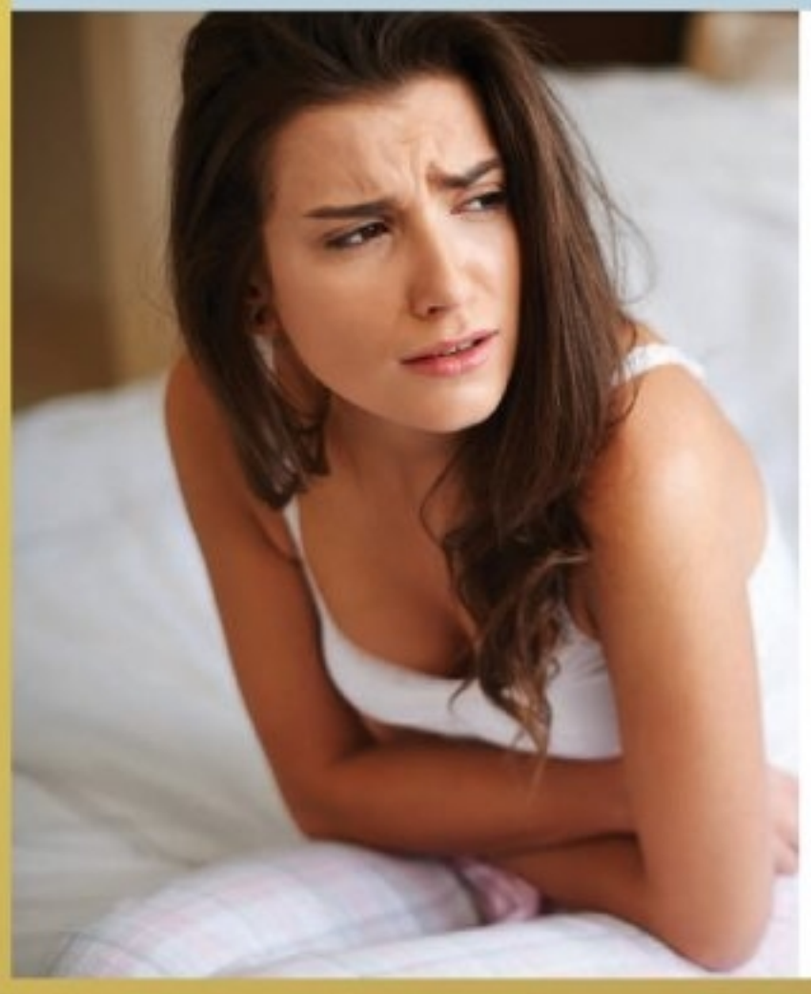

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# Why do we like being scared? There are psychological reasons why fear is fun

Steven Schlozman, a psychologist and horror fanatic, helps us understand why we love the thrill of scary movies and haunted houses.

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Halloween is all about haunted houses and scary movies — at least, for those who enjoy the thrill of being frightened.

Steven Schlozman is one of those people, a horror fanatic and horror novel author. He's also a psychiatrist at the Clay Center for Young Healthy Minds and an assistant professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School.

Schlozman said that he personally loves horror because he likes the feeling of being scared, but it's important to remember that not everybody does.

"As a child psychologist, I remind people that just because you like being scared, doesn't mean your kid will like it or be ready for it," he said. "I've got two kids, and one likes it and one doesn't."

But for those who do like it, there are some psychological reasons why.

First, it's important to note that those who enjoy scary movies are actually affected by them. It's not that they're unbothered.

"People who like horror films actually get afraid, or at least have a flight-or-fight response," he said. "The people not affected actually don't enjoy them."

When watching a scary movie, your brain tries to figure out what it is that's frightening and why, and that's an interesting enough psychological exercise to keep you glued to the screen.

"Most of what scares us are things that look familiar but aren't familiar. It's the notion of pattern recognition," Schlozman said. "Take the pale man in 'Pan's Labyrinth,' where he has eyes in his hands and holds them up to his head — it's a terrifying scene, and part of what makes it so is because there's a human-like shape there."

"You recognize the pattern of 'human,' but it doesn't match everything else you see," he continued. "Our brains are tickled by that. We love that because, from a very early age, we figure out how to recognize patterns."

People who never go through the exercise of asking why something scares them tend to not be that interested in getting scared, Schlozman said.

There are limits to that. Because Schlozman is a dad, scary movies that involve kids (a common horror trope, he added) are harder for him. They're not as fun, he said, but he can at least understand the complex feelings around why that is.

Horror movies and haunted houses are also simulated situations. You're not really being chased, but you get to think about what you would do if you had to run. Though we're hardwired to avoid those situations, Schlozman said, we also are hardwired to run through scenarios in our own head of where might lose control, so we can figure out how to respond.

And then there's the community around horror. It's a genre that has spawned conventions, festivals and meetup groups. It fosters connections: Bring up the first scary movie you saw, and most people their own story to share. Watch a scary movie, and you end up talking with friends about why a character went down those stairs and what you would have done instead.

"If you go to a horror convention or film, people who don't even know each other talk about films in a way that doesn't happen in other genres," Schlozman said. "I think what's fun about horror or fear is it's a universal experience. We can all relate to it, and at end of the day, it's usually not fear that drives story, it's the way that people respond to the fear."

People who like horror movies are actually scared by them, and there's a reason they enjoy that feeling. PEXELS

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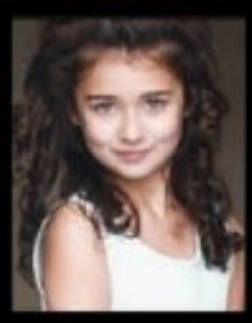

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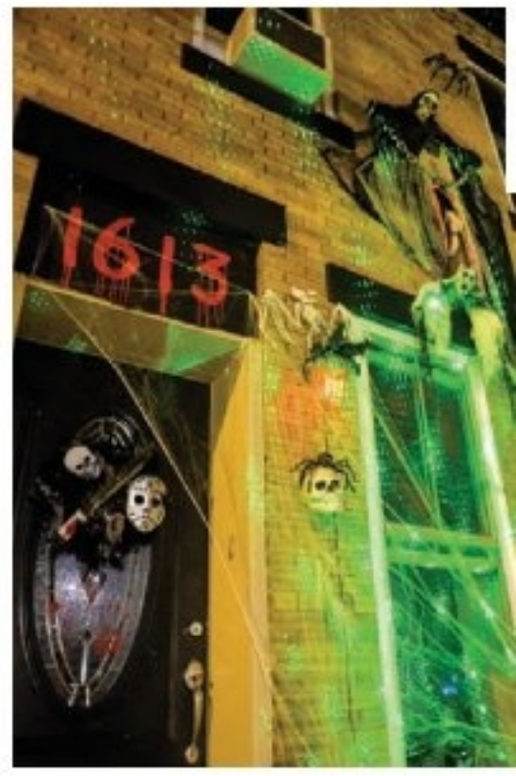
# South Philly goes all out for Halloween

South Philly residents always go the extra mile for the holidays. This year is no exception, as many decked out their homes in the spirit of Halloween for 2017.

Especially notable is "The Nightmare on Seventh Street," on South Seventh near Snyder Avenue, which may take the cake for the most gruesome portrayal of a living nightmare since "Hellraiser." With monsters, tombstones and cobwebs covering the entire face of a Philly rowhouse, the design is a dark twist on South Philly's more well-known and decidedly nicer "Miracle on South 13th Street," where annual Christmas light decorations are a tradition.

SAM NEWHOUSE




South Philadelphia residents are known for their enthusiasm for holiday decorations, and Halloween is no exception. ALL PHOTOS CHARLES MOSTOLLER

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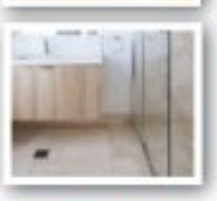

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The "Nightmare on Seventh Street" house (pictured above) has drawn attention for its elaborate Halloween decorations.

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# Is Eastern State Penitentiary really *haunted?*

We chat with people on the inside about their ghostly tales.

JENNIFER LOGUE
@jenniferlogue
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Eastern State Penitentiary housed many famous inmates, including Al Capone.
J. SMITH FOR VISIT PHILADELPHIA

If you've ever been to Eastern State Penitentiary (ESP) for Terror Behind the Walls or even for a daytime tour about the infamous prison, it's hard to deny the place makes an impact on visitors. Simply walking past the massive Gothic building is enough to instill a creepy feeling.

Opened in 1829, it's considered the world's first penitentiary, rehabilitating prisoners through solitary confinement for much of its history. Famous inmates include mobster Al Capone, who spent eight months there, as well as murderers like Victor "Babe" Andreoli.

But is it really haunted? Staff members share their ghostly encounters with Metro.

**Mischief Night**

Creative Director and General Manager of Terror Behind the Walls Amy Hollaman has been working at ESP for 13 seasons and had her first paranormal experience ever at the site.

"Prior to that I had been a skeptic about paranormal activity," she says. "I wasn't the kind of person hoping to find ghosts or assuming there were ghosts."

On Mischief Night during her first season working, she was cleaning paint brushes with a colleague — knowing they were the last two people on the premises for the night.

"All of a sudden, in the back area of the room we were in, we started to hear these sounds — like a person was stamping something and then moving a paper over repeatedly. Then we heard the sound of a cup move," she says. "These were independent sounds that lasted for 15 seconds. It doesn't seem like that long of a time, but imagine if something is terrifying you — it's pretty long. I literally learned what the word petrified meant — I was frozen stiff."

Amy Hollaman
PROVIDED

She and her colleague linked arms and left the building in silence — too stunned for words.

**Repetition is the mother of scares**

Hollaman also works with the actors as a part of her job and two different ghostly accounts from two different ones certainly sent chills up her spine.

"According to many ghost investigators, cell block 12 is one of the hottest paranormal spots on site," she reveals.

"An actor says to me one year, 'Amy I can't work on the top floor of cell block 12 anymore. Can you move my spot?"

She asked him why, and he replied: "There's a ghost up there. When I was at the edge of the cell block, it looked like this woman was running toward me screaming and once she got close to me, she turned around and ran back."

Hollaman thought his account was "weird" and switched his spot.

Three years later, a totally different actor came to her with a similar story about the second floor of cell block 12 being haunted.

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this but I think it was a banshee. It was flying down the cell block towards me screaming. and then turned back," Hollaman says of the second actor's story.

What are the chances of that?

### "Breaking Bad" luck

Hollaman also reveals a peculiar happening last year when a visitor mailed back a bolt he or she had taken from the site along with a letter.

"In it, they say they regretted taking it because they've had the worst luck ever since," she divulges.

The mysterious sender returned the bolt in a bag of sage, asking the staff to put the bolt back exactly where it was found.

"For them to think that their lives took a turn for the worse since taking this object says something," she admits.

### A ghostly encounter

Hollaman isn't the only person on staff with paranormal experiences. Technical Director James Travis also had his own moment with a spirit.

James Travis PROVIDED

"It was close to midnight on a rainy and windy Friday during the fall of the year 2012," he describes. "There was an event that evening and all of the other guests and staff had left the property."

Travis noticed a large steel panel that had been delivered for him in the building's Gatehouse and wanted to move it out of the way. He decided to take it to cell block 12. (In case you need reminding, this is probably the hottest spot for paranormal activity at ESP, according to Hollaman.)

"I planned to put it just inside of the gate there. The dolly kept sliding out of the way so I had to use both hands to get the gate unlocked," he remembers.

He says he suddenly felt the presence of someone behind him.

"I knew that everyone else had left the property, so my first suspicion was that some miscreant had secluded themselves away and were up to no good," he says.

When Travis turns around, he says he saw a short man, only about 5'4," standing a few feet from him.

"I instantly drew back my fist ready to strike, heart pumping. Then I realized he was translucent and dressed in Civil War-era military clothes. Then he disappeared," Travis says.

Later, Travis finds out that ESP was operational during the Civil War.

Creepy, huh?

A visitor returned a bolt from the prison by mail (along with sage), thinking the object brought bad luck. PROVIDED

### Odd feelings

Despite these accounts, even ESP's staff has a few skeptics in its ranks who haven't actually seen or heard ghosts, like Director of Interactivity for Terror Behind the Walls Jennifer Tomczak.

Jennifer Tomczak PROVIDED

"I tell people that I do not believe in ghosts, but I look for them during my evenings working as a performer," she says.

Tomczak has been with ESP for 14 seasons and has never seen anything "manifest in a physical form," but admits that she's had odd sensations now and then.

"My head throbbed and I felt cold and queasy while standing in three locations: the warden's office, the very back section of 'Klondike' (the punishment cells) and near a pipe closet on the second floor of death row," she says.

Tomczak says she openly invites ghostly creatures to hang out with her while working.

"I openly welcome an apparition's companionship during my long nights in the crumbling cell blocks," she admits.

Who knows? Maybe one of the spirits will read this article and take her up on the offer.

*For more information on Eastern State Penitentiary, visit: easternstate.org.*


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# Weckerly's introduces a new Halloween ice cream sandwich

Are you ready for "The Creature"?

JENNIFER LOGUE
@jenniferlogue
jennifer.logue@metro.us

Weckerly's launches a Halloween cream sandwich called "The Creature." BONDFIRE MEDIA

Who needs Halloween candy when you can get a mind blowingly good ice cream sandwich crafted in the spirit of the season? Enter "The Creature," Weckerly's newest chilly treat — available for a limited time only.

Beginning Friday, Oct. 27, foodies can get their hands on this delectable concoction at Weckerly's location in Fishtown (9 W. Girard Ave.) as well as various Weckerly vendors in the area.

Inspired by Frankenstein's monster (which makes sense, given the creamery is located inside of a former laboratory), it is constructed from a variety of elements "sewn" together.

It features pumpkin-caramel ice cream in between a chocolate cookie and a butterscotch cookie, topped with dark-chocolate peanut butter ganache and chocolate ice cream. Cookies and cream marshmallow swirls with peanut butter icing on top, and a tiny square of waffle cone separates each layer.

(You might need a flowchart to better appreciate the complexity of each bite!)

Don't think this treat could be any more decadent? Think again! 36 of "The Creature" sandwiches will be dipped in chocolate and guests will find a gift card for Weckerly's in the wrapping.

*For more information, visit: weckerlys.com.*

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Your kids will love decorating pumpkins in costume. ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

# The *best* places to go trick or treating in Philadelphia

Many local businesses will have treats for kids in costume.

Our picks include fun for kids as well as their parents.

JENNIFER LOGUE
@jenniferlogue
jennifer.logue@metro.us

Trick or treating for hours in the same neighborhood can get old after awhile — especially for younger kids. Lucky for them, Philadelphia has a number of trick or treating options this year within the context of larger, community-centric festivals. From South Street to East Passyunk to Ardmore, kids of all ages (and their parents) can enjoy Halloween-themed activities in addition to the tradition of trick-or-treating.

## PumpkinFest

Make your way to South Street for the return of PumpkinFest, which offers the full Halloween experience for kids and adults alike. Event highlights include pumpkin putt-putt golf, a pumpkin pie eating contest, jack-o'-lantern contest, costume contests, hayrides, straw hay bale maze, a magic show, live music, seasonal bites and of course, trick or treating. Businesses in the area will open their doors for trick or treaters (ages 12 and under) from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. For the adults, Commonwealth Ciders and Philadelphia Brewing Company will be providing a variety of beverages for purchase.

*Saturday, Oct. 28*
*12 p.m. to 5 p.m.*
*(main festival)*
*Free to attend*
*Headhouse Square*
*400 block of S. 2nd St.*
*southstreet.com*

## Sixth Annual East Passyunk Fall Fest and Spooky Saturday

East Passyunk comes alive with the spirit of Halloween with loads of fun for the whole family. Kids can enjoy pumpkin decorating at 11 a.m., a scarecrow scavenger hunt at 1 p.m. and, of course, trick or treating to the 40 different arts & crafts vendors who will be onsite as well as to the 30 different businesses along with Avenue beginning at 1 p.m. The first 400 kids will receive free treat bags. For the adults, there will be fall-themed food, beer and cocktails available for purchase.

*Saturday, Oct. 28*
*11 a.m. to 4 p.m.*
*Free to attend*
*Tasker and Passyunk*
*visiteastpassyunk.com*

## Halloween Super Saturday

The Piazza at Schmidt's Commons will have Halloween fun for the kids as well as everyone else in your family. Trick or treating runs from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., and businesses in the Piazza will give treats to children in costume who are accompanied by a parent.

DGX, Urban Village Brewing, Gunner's Run, Crabby's, El Camino, Jinxed, Orange Theory and more will participate. In addition, vendors apart of the Fall Makers' Market will also have candy for trick or treaters.

*Saturday, Oct. 28*
*Noon*
*Free to attend*
*The Piazza at Schmidt's Commons*
*1001 N. 2nd St.*
*theschmidtscommons.com*

## Halloween Spooktacular

The fun continues out in the suburbs with Halloween Spooktacular in Ardmore on Saturday. Kids begin the trick or treat route at Schauffele Plaza (14 E. Lancaster Ave.), where they grab their free trick or treat bags. The route ends at Jack McShea's (34 E. Lancaster Ave.), where the whole family can sit down for a nice meal following all of that walking. Kids must be accompanied by an adult.

*Saturday, Oct. 28*
*11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.*
*Free to attend*
*Downtown Ardmore*
*ardmoreshops.com*

Children should be accompanied by a parent.

Will you be dressing up to get in the Halloween spirit?

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PARTIES & FESTIVALS

## Spooked on Spruce

A Halloween party you can feel good about, this soiree —complete with a DJ, food, a raffle and included beer and wine–doubles as a fundraiser for Siloam's HIV wellness services. Students and recent graduates can nab a discount on tickets. **Oct. 27, 7 p.m. Trinity Center for Urban Life 2212 Spruce St. siloamwellness.org, $50**

## Casamigos Halloween Party

For a sophisticated Halloween party, Maison 208—the swanky digs newly opened in the Gayborhood–hosts this Casamigos Tequila-sponsored shindig that features hors doeuvres, a costume contest and a variety of tequila specialty cocktails. The $60 ticket gets you unlimited tequila drinks.
**Oct. 27, 9 p.m. Maison 208 208 S. 13th St. maison208.com, $30**

## Haunted Carnival Halloween Party

Society Hill's juke joint, barbecue restaurant and whisky bar throws a costume contest—with prizes—combined with live music upstairs by Mikey Junior Band. There will also be fire breathers and fortune tellers roaming about, with drink specials abound.
**Oct. 27, 9 p.m. The Twisted Tail 509 S. Second St. thetwistedtail.com Pay as you go**

PARTIES & FESTIVALS

PROVIDED

## South Street Pumpkinfest

It's a pumpkin-everything theme at this South Street festival, with pumpkin putt-putt golf, a pumpkin pie eating contest, a Jack O'Lantern contest, pumpkin bites and ciders from Philadelphia Brewing Company. Live entertainment includes performers from the Philadelphia School of Circus Arts. A heads-up: Pop by the Headhouse the evening before, at 6 p.m., for a free showing of "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown."
**Oct. 28, 12 p.m. Headhouse Square , Second and Lombard streets, southstreet.com , Pay as you go**

## Ardmore Halloween

## Spooktacular

Ardmore Business Association sponsors this trick-or-treat event in which downtown businesses hand out candy, with special treats served up at the end of the trail at Jack McShea's. Bags are provided for free.
**Oct. 28, 11 a.m. Schauffele Plaza, 14 E. Lancaster Ave. Free**

## Spooky Saturday

East Passyunk fills up with free activities for the day, ranging from pumpkin painting to a dog costume contest, a craft fair curated by Nice Things Handmade to free trick-or-treating. Outdoor food vendors include Mamma Maria Ristorante, Stogie Joe's, Say Cheese, POPE and The Chilly Banana.
**Oct. 28, 11 a.m. Mifflin Street and East Passyunk Avenue, visiteastpassyunk.com Pay as you go**

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### Masquerade Affair

aMuse cultivates a more mysterious vibe for Halloween, handing out complimentary masquerade masks to party attendees. On the agenda for the evening: a costume contest, a performance by DJ Mateo Difontaine and the slinging of fun cocktails like The Black Widow, made with Belvedere vodka, mint syrup, orange juice and blackberries, as well as The Smashing Pumpkin, made with pumpkin liqueur, passion fruit juice and anise flower syrup.
**Oct. 28, 8 p.m.**
**aMuse, 1421 Arch St.**
**amusephiladelphia.com, $45**

### Superheroes v. Villains

It's a specific costume theme at Nick's, where patrons are encouraged to show up as their favorite superhero or villain and compete for a $100 cash prize. Drink specials include "pumpkintinis," $12 beer buckets and $3 Jell-O shots.
**Oct. 28, 9 p.m.**
**Nick's Bar and Grille**
**16 S. Second St.**
**nicksroastbeefbarandgrille.com**
**Free**

### Mad Rex's First Annual Wasteland Halloween Party

The post-apocalyptic-themed bar is practically prepared for Halloween on-the-daily, but the bar takes it up another notch for Halloween by inviting fire performers, DJ Mixology and emcee Johnny Tru Love. There will also be a costume contest and afterparty at Garden Social Club.
**Oct. 28, 10 p.m.**
**Mad Rex , 1000 Frankford Ave.**
**themadrex.com , Free**

**MUSIC**

### The Roddenberries

Forever a house of weird, Franky Bradley's invites a 10-piece Star Trek tribute troupe to celebrate Halloween—with a costume dance party. Expect a mix of disco, rock and metal and lots of sci-fi feels.
**Oct. 29, 7 p.m.**
**Franky Bradley's**
**1320 Chancellor St.**
**frankybradleys.ticketfly.com, $10**

**LGBT**

### Gurl, boo!

Funny gals Aurora Whorealis, Mistor Fahrenheit and Samora dust off the Ouija board for this cheeky Halloween drag show—with no cover, plus drink specials.
**Oct. 28, 9 p.m.**
**Tabu Lounge & Sports Bar**
**200 S. 12th St.**
**tabuphilly.com, Free**

### Boys of Hallow's Eve

Recalling summer's "Boys of Summer," PhillyGayCalendar presents a costume party for the city's kink culture. Guests are invited to dress as their "wild alter ego" and dance to tunes spun by DJ KRK.
**Oct. 27, 9 p.m. , The Bike Stop**
**206 S. Quince St.**
**thebikestop.com, $10**

**MISC.**

### #Run4UrLife

MANNA hosts the Fourth Annual #Run4UrLife event at West Laurel Hill, an evening 5K run with trick-or-treating for kids. Runners are encouraged to dress up in their ghoulish best. Proceeds go toward fighting hunger. **Oct. 26, 6:30 p.m.**
**West Laurel Hill**
**225 Belmont Ave., Bala Cynwyd**
**westlaurelhill.com , $10**

### Spooky Mini Golf

A low-key way to celebrate Halloween, Franklin Square's usual Philly Mini Golf is transformed into "Spooky Mini Golf" for the weekend, featuring fog lights, music and subtle scares. Show up Saturday afternoon for a trick-or-treat trail that's free for kids 10 and younger.**Oct. 27 through Oct. 29, 6 p.m., Franklin Square**
**200 N. Sixth St.**
**historicphiladelphia.org, $9**

### HOUND-O-WEEN

A thorough dog costume contest, Street Tail Animal Rescue hosts its fifth year of judging on the criteria of Most Original, Most Creative, Best Presented, Best Owner/Dog Costume Combination and Best Doggy Duet. The winner gets a neighborhood-themed gift bag with certificates for El Camino, Interstate Drafthouse, La Colombe and more. Registration starts at noon; the contest starts at 1 p.m.
**Oct. 28, 12 p.m. Schmidt's Commons 1001 N. Second St.**
**theschmidtscommons.com, $10**
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# From pubs to Michelin grub

Taste the finer things in life at Belfast's historic taverns and up-and-coming restaurants.

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The Crown Liquor Bar offers history and great pints.

Belfast's uniquely inviting pubs are an Irish tradition. Some of the finest watering holes can be found in the Northern Irish capital, and that's the way it's been for centuries.

More recently, contemporary Belfast has risen to become a top culinary destination with an array of highly rated restaurants.

## Tradition at its finest

Start with the Ulster Fry, which is a traditional Irish breakfast you'll never forget. Your plate will be filled with eggs, potato farl, sausages, bacon, black pudding and tomato. According to James Bell, head chef of **George's of the Market**, the secret is cooking everything in one pan.

Go from George's of the Market to **St. George's Market**, which is the last surviving Victorian covered market in Belfast. You'll be impressed by the array of local produce — there's nothing like sampling fresh produce from the green pastures of Ireland — as well as fish, meat and crafts.

## A meal from history

It's been just over a century since the Titanic's fateful maiden voyage, but the fascination with the ship hasn't abated.

A popular and extraordinary experience can be had when ordering from the Titanic Menu at **Rayanne House**: a recreation of the nine-course dinner served to first-class passengers.

Enjoy the last meal of first-class passengers on the Titanic at Rayanne House.

## Riches of the sea

Shellfish lovers should experience the **Mourne Seafood Bar**. Start with oysters Japanese Style (shredded cucumber, pickled ginger, spiced soy). If you like shellfish with a kick, graduate to salt and chili squid, then cap the experience with grilled lobster.

Fans of creative and modern cuisine should stop in to **Ox**. The cod with carrots and coral butter is a must.

## Memorable pubs

The **Muddlers Club** is a great place to start to experience Belfast's pub scene.

Like many of the city's fine pubs, the Muddlers Club has a rich history — it was once home to a 200-year-old secret society located in the Cathedral Quarter. The secret is out these days, but you can still score a seat at the bar as well as a table. The Tempted Sweet Cider Point or a Galloper's Golden Ale are good places to start.

**Stix and Stones** won't break your bones or your travel budget. The large, modern restaurant is relatively new but serves traditional Irish favorites alongside contemporary libations. The menu is a cut above your average pub grub, with options like confit duck. All of the beef served up comes from Ireland and is dry aged for 28 days, a true treat for meat lovers.

Part of the charm of the **Duke of York** is that it is nestled along a narrow cobbled alley in an historic area. The interior is similarly lived-in — old dusty bottles, an extensive whiskey list and next-level bartenders.

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EXOTIC CRUISES
RoyalCaribbean 7-Day Bermuda $529* pp Ocean View $579* Taxes & fees $185.00pp Balcony $649*
PRINCESS CRUISES 10-Day Mexico $619* pp Ocean View $669* Balcony $849*
Celebrity Cruises 7-Day Bermuda $689* pp Ocean View $889* Taxes & fees $194.61pp Balcony $1139*
Holland America Line 10-Day Panama $709* pp Ocean View $759* Balcony $939*

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# FANTASY FOOTBALL ADVICE

**BILL DUBIEL**

Bill Dubiel is a fantasy football expert and lead NFL columnist for Rotoballer.com.

Fantasy football tips heading into Week 8 of the 2017 NFL season.

Broncos receiver Demaryius Thomas has had a tough go of it so far this season. GETTY IMAGES

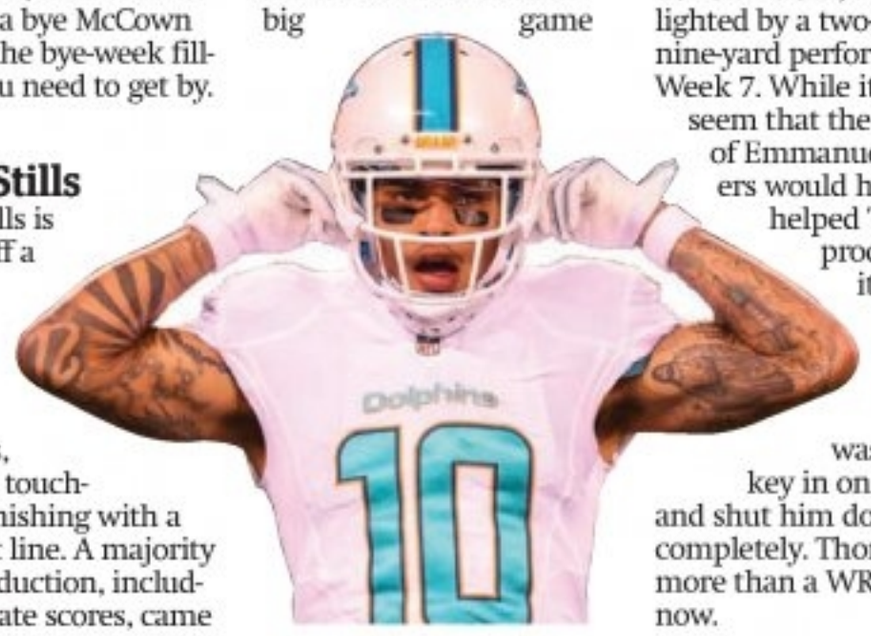
## Send in McCown

No fantasy writer expected anything out of the New York Jets this year and if they tell you different, they're lying. Here we are in Week 8, and the Jets are still hanging around in the playoff hunt at 3-4. While it's certainly not realistic to think that they'll actually make the playoffs, it appears that Josh McCown can be a viable fantasy asset despite having a roster of no-names around him.

The 38-year-old journeyman has been terrific over the last few weeks, piling up seven passing touchdowns and one rushing touchdown in his last three games. McCown has been a career backup for good reason — he simply isn't that talented — but he gets the Atlanta Falcons this week in a game in which he'll have to throw to keep up. A 250-yard, 2-3 touchdown game is a reasonable expectation, and with six teams on a bye McCown could be the bye-week fill-in that you need to get by.

## Moore Stills

Kenny Stills is coming off a game in which he set season-highs in catches, yards and touchdowns, finishing with a 6-85-2 stat line. A majority of his production, including both late scores, came with Matt Moore under center, filling in for the injured Jay Cutler. Moore and Stills have a history of success together as well. In the four games Matt Moore played in last year, Stills received nearly a quarter of all targets (23.5 percent). Stills has always been a big-play threat, even dating back to his days in New Orleans, so he should be the one Moore looks at with all of his shots downfield. On top of that, the Dolphins play Thursday night, meaning DeVante Parker will have less time to heal from an ankle injury that has kept him out the last two weeks. With only Jarvis Landry to compete with for touches, Stills should be in for another big game against the beatable Ravens secondary.



## Doubting Thomas

When Peyton Manning was under center for the Broncos in the early 2010s, Demaryius Thomas was one of the most consistently explosive fantasy players in the game. Since then, he has seen his production steadily drop off. In fact, Thomas has not scored a touchdown in any of his last 12 regular season games (dating back to 2016). This can largely be chalked up to the inconsistent, if not downright erratic play of Trevor Siemian. In recent weeks, Thomas' performance has bottomed out, highlighted by a two-catch, nine-yard performance in Week 7. While it would seem that the absence of Emmanuel Sanders would have helped Thomas' production, it did the opposite. The opposing defense was able to key in on Thomas and shut him down completely. Thomas is no more than a WR3 right now.

## Pickups of the week

**Kenny Golladay, WR, Lions**
With Golden Tate sidelined for the LIons, Golladay - who shined early in the season - should see some opportunities in what will likely be a shootout with the Steelers in Week 8.

**Tyler Kroft, TE, Bengals**
Tyler Eifert is still on the shelf for the Bengals, and Kroft has provided modest, yet consistent value in recent weeks. He has at least four catches in each of his last three games, with three touchdowns over that time period.

**Marlon Mack, RB, Colts**
Robert Turbin is out for the season, for Indianapolis leaving Mack as the primary complement to Frank Gore in the Indy running game. He should be rostered in every league given his ability to contribute both on the ground and in the passing game.

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# The loss of MacDonald will surely hurt Flyers

MacDonald won't be back for the Flyers until December.

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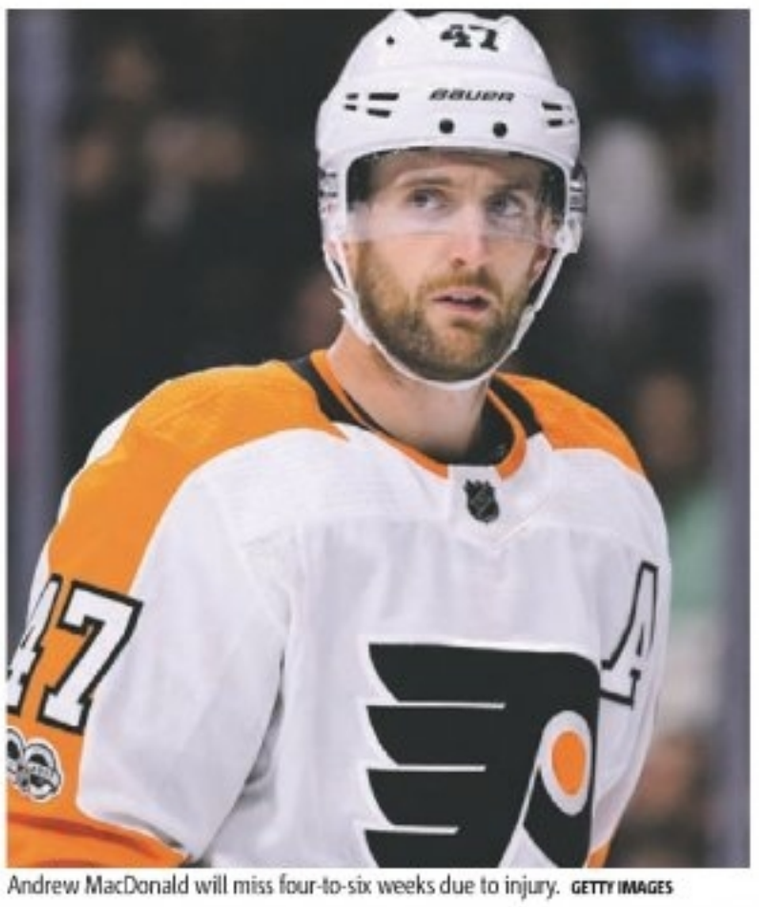
Andrew MacDonald will miss four-to-six weeks due to injury. GETTY IMAGES

It's hardly a secret that Flyers defenseman Andrew MacDonald is not a fan favorite.

Since signing a six-year, $30 million deal in 2014, the veteran has drawn the ire of the team's faithful due to his failure to live up to the contract. It also didn't help when MacDonald spent 43 games of the 2015-16 season with the Lehigh Valley Phantoms — although the decision was based more on salary cap reasons than his play.

However, fans don't have to worry about him until after Thanksgiving. MacDonald will miss the next four-to-six weeks with a lower body injury, suffered while blocking a shot on Saturday against the Oilers.

His teammates, on the other hand, will miss him.

In the first game since his absence on Tuesday, the Flyers played their worst game of the young season during a 6-2 drubbing by the Ducks. While the entire lineup shoulders the blame for the lackluster performance, the new-look defense stuck out like a sore thumb.

Due to MacDonald's injury, Flyers coach Dave Hakstol changed all three defensive pairings. The lines on Tuesday were: Ivan Provorov and Robert Hagg, Shayne Gostisbehere and Radko Gudas; and Brandon Manning and Travis Sanheim.

None of them clicked.

"I think you've got to play a couple of games to get some chemistry," said Gostisbehere, who had been with Hagg. "As a team, I think we could have played a little better, obviously, but I think it comes with not playing with certain guys."

It will be interesting to see if Hakstol gives his defense that time to gel or makes more changes before Thursday's game at Ottawa.

"Everyone has played pro for a few years now and you get comfortable in practice and you know guys' tendencies so I don't think it's an excuse," said Manning, who had partnered with Gudas. "But, it does take a little bit of time to get used to guys."

As the Flyers adjust to life without MacDonald, they will miss his shot blocking skills and experience. The 31 year old is second on the team in blocks (18), a respectable plus-1 in plus/minus and has logged only 200 less NHL games than the rest of the current defense combined.

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# 3 Reasons why Eagles are the best team in the NFL

The Birds are the best team in pro football for a variety of reasons.

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Carson Wentz has stunningly inserted himself into the MVP conversation. GETTY IMAGES

The Eagles approach Week 8 - the midway point of the NFL season - with six wins, one loss, and a league-best five game win streak. No matter what happens in their game against the 0-7 49ers, they will leave the first half of the season at least tied for the best record in the NFL. How did they get here?

## 1 Ahead of schedule

Carson Wentz is the team in microcosm. Most had belief in the young quarterback's ability, most thought he would be better in 2017 with a full off-season of work as the undisputed starter. Fans who pegged him as the odds-on favorite for NFL MVP this season were in the same scarcity as before. Perhaps in hindsight Wentz's improvement is less surprising. He was already ahead of schedule once: when the 2016 season opened and he guided the Eagles to a 3-0 start just a week after Sam Bradford was traded. As expected from the quarterback, Wentz's play has been the catalyst for the early victories. His ability to extend plays inside the pocket has bought time while the offensive line rotation solidified. His timing on deep balls to Torrey Smith, Nelson Agholor, and most recently Mack Hollins has turned into touchdowns. From his opening weekend touchdown throw to Agholor to his emergence from a pocket scrum Monday night, he has broadcasters and fans alike saying "Wow" at least once a week.

## 2 Next man up

Injuries are the plague of every team in the NFL, and the Eagles have been no exception. Jason Peters and Jordan Hicks became the latest victims of season-ending injuries, joining Chris Maragos and Darren Sproles on injured reserve. Fletcher Cox, Lane Johnson, Mychal Kendricks, Caleb Sturgis, and Ronald Darby have missed time. Second-round pick Sidney Jones has yet to play. Halapoulivaati Vaitai stepped in for Johnson against the Panthers, and stepped in for Peters Monday night and the offense continued clicking. Patrick Robinson has performed admirably at inside corner and outside in Darby's absence.

## 3 Special teams

Several of the injuries described above affected the special teams. Sproles was the team's most experienced and dangerous return man. Maragos was a coverage star and captain. Sturgis was coming off a season in which he set the franchise record for field goals converted. Any one of these events could have upset the Eagles hegemony in special teams excellence over the past decade, but none have.

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## LEGAL NOTICES

# City of Philadelphia Public Hearing Notice

The **Committee on Finance** of the Council of the City of Philadelphia will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, November 1, 2017**, at **10:00 AM**, in **Room 400, City Hall**, to hear testimony on the following items:

**160111** An Ordinance amending Chapter 12-2800 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Administrative Adjudication of Parking Violations," to establish an amnesty program for fines, fees and penalties on parking violations; all under certain terms and conditions.

**170717** An Ordinance amending Chapter 19-4200 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "New Sustainable Businesses," to expand the tax relief offered to such businesses, and to make technical corrections, all under certain terms and conditions.

**170878** An Ordinance authorizing and approving the execution and delivery of a Service Agreement between the City of Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority relating to the financing of a home repair program for City homeowners; approving the issuance by such Authority of bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness (including reimbursement obligations related to lines or letters of credit) in one or more series to finance or refinance such program and authorizing and approving the obligation of the City to pay in full when due the Service Fee and other amounts payable under the Service Agreement; authorizing certain City officers to take certain actions required to issue such bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness; covenanting that the City will make necessary appropriations in each of the City's fiscal years to provide for, and will make timely payments of, the Service Fee and other amounts due under the Service Agreement; and authorizing City officials to take other necessary or appropriate actions to effectuate the purposes of this Ordinance; all under certain terms and conditions.

Immediately following the public hearing, a meeting of the Committee on Finance, open to the public, will be held to consider the action to be taken on the above listed items.

Copies of the foregoing items are available in the Office of the Chief Clerk of the Council, Room 402, City Hall.

Michael Decker
Chief Clerk

# metro.us/games

## metro.us/crossword

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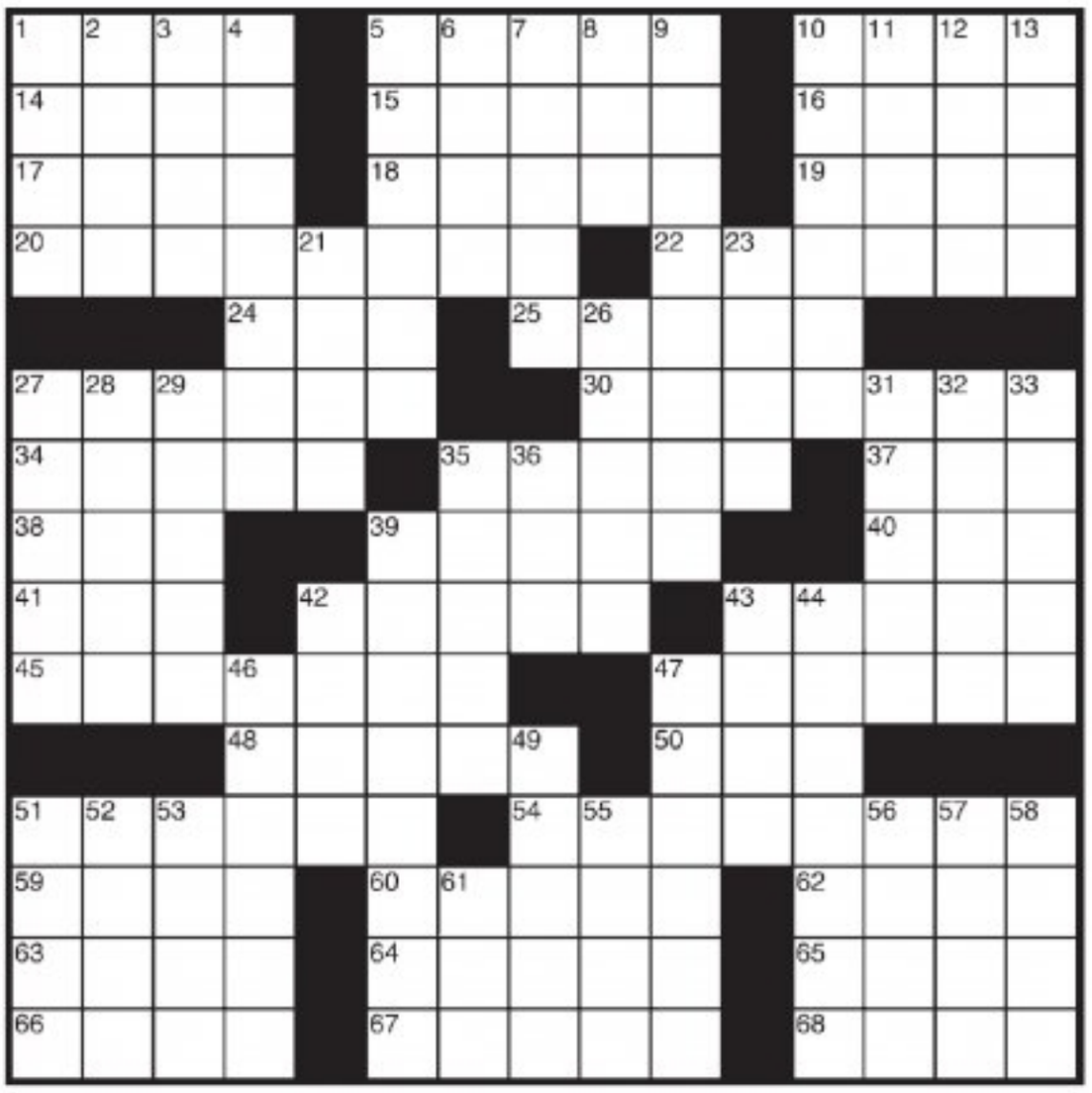
2 Pocket bread
3 Similar
4 Work with antiques
5 Put up with
6 Had a turn
7 Radiant
8 Regret bitterly
9 Asks urgently
10 Teasing remarks
11 Loony
12 Pacific island
13 Boarding school
21 Pasture moms
23 Auricles
26 North Sea tributary
27 Crush grapes
28 Not allowed
29 Principle
31 Place of safety
32 Veld grazer
33 "Walk Away –"
35 Ghostlike
36 Fiddle-de- –
39 Sewing kit items
42 Prefix for "trillion"
43 Skirt vent
44 Frisky
46 Minister
47 – out (rescued)
49 Ledger entry
51 Only
52 Voucher
53 GI supply
55 Apportion by measure
56 Not busy
57 Next-door
58 Rummy or tag
61 Rope-a-dope boxer



## metro.us/sudoku

**easy**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 4 | | | | | | 9 | |
| | | | | 2 | 1 | | 4 | |
| | | 3 | 7 | 9 | | 2 | 6 | |
| | 8 | 4 | | | 2 | | | |
| 9 | | | | | | | | 3 |
| | | | 1 | | | 6 | 2 | |
| | 6 | 9 | | 4 | 3 | 5 | | |
| | 3 | | 9 | 7 | | | | |
| | 5 | | | | | | 3 | 2 |

**hard**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | | 6 | | | | | 3 | |
| | 8 | 4 | | | 1 | 9 | 7 | 5 |
| 3 | 1 | | | | 5 | | | |
| | 2 | | | | | | | 8 |
| | | | 8 | | 4 | | | |
| 6 | | | | | | | 1 | |
| | | | 5 | | | | 9 | 7 |
| 4 | 6 | 9 | 2 | | | 5 | 8 | |
| | 7 | | | | | 4 | | 1 |

## metro.us/horoscopes

**Aries** Emotional decisions are not likely to turn out the way you want. Personal growth, general improvement and stabilizing your future should be your goals.

**Taurus** Finish what you start. Your reputation will get a boost if you can turn chaos into order. An intellectual discussion with someone very different from you will be enlightening.

**Gemini** An emotional incident will leave you questioning your next move. Take better care of your emotional frame of mind. Finish one job before starting another to avoid criticism.

**Cancer** Don't feel the need to make an abrupt change or impulsive decision. You have plenty of time to research and figure out what exactly you want to do.

**Leo** Avoid people with colds and flus, and places likely to have lots of germs. Protect your health and stay focused on getting plenty of rest and eating properly.

**Virgo** Networking functions will lead to new opportunities. Adapt to whatever changes come your way. Your ability to go with the flow will help you accomplish your goals.

**Libra** Don't say or do something you'll regret. Revealing a secret or arguing over something trivial will not help you win friends or favors. Personal growth should be your goal.

**Scorpio** Make your home your haven. A creative space that you can tinker in will lead to a pursuit that you find inspiring and others will be intrigued by.

**Sagittarius** Protect against emotional stress. Stay on top of unfinished business to ensure that it is completed before it's due. Don't let temptation turn into a financial loss.

**Capricorn** Mesh the past with the present and you will be able to build a solid future. Reuniting with old friends or colleagues will open doors that can lead to new beginnings.

**Aquarius** There is no room for risk. Jumping into a deal without doing proper research will put you in a difficult position personally and financially.

**Pisces** Your participation in community events or a joint venture will give you a chance to show off your skills and offer unique solutions. EUGENIA LAST

**Yesterday's answers**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | I | S | A | ■ | C | O | R | G | I | ■ | L | E | G | S |
| E | V | E | R | ■ | A | V | E | R | T | ■ | A | B | E | T |
| C | A | R | T | ■ | D | E | E | R | E | ■ | D | O | N | A |
| K | N | E | E | J | E | R | K | ■ | R | O | D | N | E | Y |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | M | U | T | T | ■ | M | A | U | I | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| S | N | A | I | L | S | ■ | L | E | T | T | E | R | E | D |
| T | E | R | S | E | ■ | V | I | S | E | ■ | S | A | L | E |
| E | H | S | ■ | P | E | R | V | A | D | E | ■ | N | A | P |
| E | R | O | S | ■ | T | O | E | S | ■ | L | O | T | T | O |
| L | U | N | C | H | E | O | N | ■ | S | U | N | S | E | T |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | H | A | R | M | ■ | M | A | D | E | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| S | T | R | E | W | N | ■ | L | O | N | E | S | O | M | E |
| A | H | E | M | ■ | I | R | E | N | E | ■ | E | V | I | L |
| C | A | N | E | ■ | T | A | N | K | S | ■ | L | A | M | B |
| K | I | D | D | ■ | Y | E | A | S | T | ■ | F | L | E | A |

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